

STUDENT SERVICES

QCST Preparation at Northside



What is the QCST (Queensland Core Skills Test)?

The QCST is used to provide data enabling comparisons to be made for students across the state providing them with a tertiary entrance score called an OP (Overall Position). In 2017 the test will occur on the 29th & 30th August.

Students sit 4 exams over two days:

1 x 600 word Writing Task Exam

2 x Multiple Choice Exams

1 x Short Response Exam

For further information about the QCST go to <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/2318.html>

What is the test designed to assess?

The QCST assesses skills, rather than content. There are 54 generic skills or Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs) the test will assess. Access this link for the full list and further information: <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/27797.html>

Which students sit the QCST?

We encourage all students to sit the QCST at NCC. OP eligible students must sit the QCST to qualify for an OP score.

For OP ineligible students, achieving a good result can improve their rank (OP equivalent score). The rank for OP ineligible students is not negatively affected, regardless of the exam results. The results an OP-ineligible student achieves only impacts their individual result and has no impact on the results of their peers.

What preparation is given to NCC students?

QCST Preparation occurs weekly for Year 12 students at Northside. Most students are timetabled for QCST Preparation on Wednesday Period 2. Students who attend off-campus training on Wednesdays will have their lesson during PM on Fridays. Preparation involves:

- Small classes of approx. 12 students
- a dedicated teaching team which includes staff who are experienced QCST markers
- test familiarisation
- skill revision
- test tips
- rehearsal using practice questions from past exam papers
- a text book – each student will be given a copy of "QCS Success" that will be kept at school and used in preparation lessons. This text will be sent home at the start of Term 3 to assist students to revise before the test.
- Sitting 2 practise exams (papers from past years). One at the end of Year 11 (Pre-test) and the second at the end of Term 2.
- Receiving detailed written feedback and results for all practice exams. Parents will be notified via email when students have been given these results.

As a parent, what can I do to help my student?

- Encourage students to do their best in both the preparation lessons and the test.
- Familiarise yourself sufficiently with the details of the QCST so you can discuss it with your student. Ask them what they are doing in preparation lessons, just as you would in relation to other subjects/activities.
- Look for updates regarding the preparation process (like this one) in the Newsletter and on Parent Lounge.
- Access MOODLE for further test preparation materials.
- Contact us if you have any questions.